

a hand when needed; and the children helped out cleaning cars and working in the parts and service departments.

At first, Triple J distributed Subaru automobiles, Hino heavy trucks and buses, and Bluebird school buses. As business grew they added the Ford, Mazda, Lincoln, Hyundai, Isuzu, Suzuki, Volvo, Honda, Acura, Kia and Mitsubishi brands to the company's automobile business portfolio. And when the children returned from college the business began expanding beyond automobiles and beyond Guam and the Northern Marianas.

In 1987, in alignment with Bob's visionary persona, Triple J began working in wholesale foods and retail grocery with a business on Ebeye in the Marshall Islands. Further expansion years later added nearby Majuro, where the company today continues to operate similar businesses. In 1998, the wholesale business would expand west to Palau along with a bakery, convenience store, and Shell service station.

Triple J would further diversify into the restaurant business beginning in the mid-1990s with the purchase of an Outback Steakhouse franchise on Guam and, later, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Bubba Gump Shrimp Company, and Great Harvest Bakery franchises on Saipan. Scheduled to open in 2019, a Red Lobster franchise restaurant now under development on Guam will be a new addition to the restaurant group.

In 1994, Triple J had a hand in negotiating the arrival of K-Mart on Guam. That store, bucking a national trend of closures, remains to this day one of the most successful K-Marts anywhere.

Into the new millennium, by 2005 Triple J had grown to be the fourth largest business in Micronesia, as ranked by the Guam Business Magazine. The Guam Chamber of Commerce named the company Business Laureate of the Year and inducted Triple J into the Guam Business Hall of Fame—the youngest corporation to receive the honor.

And they just kept growing. Triple J acquired Hertz Rent-a-Car rights and became exclusive distributor in all of Micronesia for Solahart—an Australian solar water heater company.

Capitalizing on another opportunity, Triple J developed a first-of-its-kind affordable housing development on Saipan, subsidized by the U.S. Treasury's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program. Sandy Beach Homes—a \$27 million, 60-unit project—was completed in late 2011; and a second, affordable housing project—Saipan Comfort Homes—quickly followed with another 40 units.

Sharing in the value of philanthropy, the Jones family and Triple J make efforts to enhance the quality of life of those in need. On Guam, Triple J partners with the American Cancer Society Guam Chapter annually to support their signature funding event, Relay for Life, raising as much as \$40,000 in one year alone. In the Northern Marianas, the company regularly contributes to the Red Cross Walk-a-Thon, the Marianas March Against Cancer, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and numerous other charitable programs raising money for relief efforts and cancer research. They have also been the official car sponsor of the Miss Marianas Pageant and the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

This larger concern for the welfare of the whole community came into further relief when

the Marianas was hit by Typhoon Soudelor in 2015. The worst typhoon in decades, Soudelor carried sustained winds exceeding 100 miles per hour. In the wake of the devastation, which left most people on Saipan without power for a month, Bob Jones donated thousands of dollars in food to help the Salvation Army set up a hot meals program in Kagman, one of the hardest-hit villages. For his selflessness and support, when the community was in dire need, the Rotary Club of Saipan awarded Bob Jones its Citizen of the Year award in 2016.

"Customers first" is Triple J's simple mission statement and yet, it holds a more complex meaning displayed in the actions behind their successes. That people-centric view serves as a model to other businesses in the communities they serve.

Through all these years of dynamic growth, the importance of family remains central to the successes of Bob and Margaret. Son Jeffery is the president and chief operating officer of the company. Son Jay is senior vice president with a focus on automotive operations. And, while daughter Julie spends much of her time in a professional counseling practice, her husband, Dan Murrell, serves as senior vice president in charge of real estate, food, and restaurant operations. Mother Margaret remains company treasurer. Bob is chairman and CEO. Growing into the third generation, five of their eleven grandchildren have begun working for the family business. Today, the Triple J group employs over 900 employees across the Micronesia region, many of whom have been with the business for twenty plus years.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating true citizens of the Marianas, Bob and Margaret Jones and all their family for over 60 years of service and success in the Marianas and throughout Micronesia.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DEBORAH
LELIAERT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deborah Leliaert, Vice President for University Relations and Planning, as she retires from her position at the University of North Texas.

Ms. Leliaert joined UNT in 1992 as director of news while attending UNT's Toulouse Graduate School. In 1996, she advanced to associate vice president for marketing and communication and UNT System associate vice chancellor for communications and marketing. She held this title until 2001 when the UNT System Board of Regents approved the creation of associate vice president for university relations. Ms. Leliaert was promoted into this new role to oversee the university's communications and marketing as well as visitor and public relations. She continued in this capacity as associate vice chancellor for communications and marketing for the UNT System.

In a career spanning more than a quarter century of UNT's history, Ms. Leliaert witnessed a tremendous period of growth, challenge, and celebration, serving six presidents and three chancellors as the institution's chief internal and external spokesperson through

much of this time. This window of UNT's history included its acceptance as a full member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities; countless new programs and building projects; new campuses; recognition of UNT as an emerging research institution and the development of ground-breaking relationships for the University through research efforts and public partnerships such as exists with UNT's current relationship with the Dallas Cowboys.

Managing much of the marketing and communications involved in supporting UNT's brand management and institutional reputation, Ms. Leliaert also supported UNT's ambitious student recruitment and retention objectives for a campus that has grown by almost 20 percent in only the second half of her tenure with UNT. Her efforts to bolster UNT in the media intersected with the rapid rise of social media and modern transformation of the media landscape.

Ms. Leliaert's talents, particularly her eloquence and skill to respond in times of crisis, will be sorely missed by the UNT community. As a proud UNT alumnus, I thank her for her contributions as a long-serving member of UNT's staff, and I wish her much happiness as she commences her retirement after a significant and successful career.

DARLYNN BLEA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Darlynn Blea for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Darlynn Blea received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Darlynn Blea is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Darlynn Blea for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE FORTIETH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE ARC OF
SCHUYLER

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the fortieth anniversary of The Arc of Schuyler.

The Arc of Schuyler is a private, not for profit organization providing support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism, and their families. The Arc of Schuyler is a Chapter of the Arc of New York,